

Red Pines - Final Environmental Impact Statement

APPENDIX J CREATED OPENINGS GREATER THAN 40 ACRES

OPENINGS OVER 40 ACRES

Direction in Forest Service Manual 2471.1 states that the size of openings created by even-aged silvicultural treatments in the Northern Rockies will normally be 40 acres or less, with certain exceptions. One of those exceptions includes catastrophic events such as fire, windstorms, or insect and disease attacks. In these cases, the 40-acre limitation may be exceeded without 60-day public review and without Regional Forester approval, provided the public is notified and the environmental analysis supports the decision. This documentation of the proposed creation of these openings constitutes public notification for the Red Pines project.

Implementation of any Red Pines action alternatives would create some openings that are greater than 40 acres in size (Table J-1). All of these openings have been precipitated by the action of catastrophic events, in this case insect attacks and disease. Table J-1 in this appendix displays openings over 40 acres that would be created with Alternative B, the alternative that harvests the most acres. The difference between Alternative B and Alternative E (preferred) is that several units were dropped and unit sizes generally decreased because no entry in Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs) is proposed.

The units themselves range in size from 1 to 375 acres in size. However, some units are adjacent to other planned or existing units, and cumulative opening size will exceed 40 acres in several instances. For the purposes of this analysis: clearcut, shelterwood and irregular shelterwood prescriptions were included as a created opening. When implemented, irregular shelterwood treatments will have reserve trees in patches and clumps throughout the unit and may appear less open. The average number of trees in these openings following treatment (stocking) would vary from 15 to as many as 30 trees per acre depending on tree species and condition of individual trees. Snags and green tree replacements should remain where available based on the table in Appendix F (referred to as reserves). Silvicultural treatment descriptions and individual unit treatments are displayed in Appendix E – Fuel Treatments. Each silvicultural prescription describes the estimated percent of tree canopy that will be removed, in each unit.

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TABLE J-1 - UNITS CREATING OPENINGS GREATER THAN 40 ACRES, ALT. B.

Unit No.	Clearcut w/reserves (4114)	Shelterwood or Irregular Shelterwood w/reserves (4133)	Total Acres
3, 4		130	130
8		48	48
11, 12	131		131
13	60		60
21		68	68
22		43	43
27		47	47
32, 33	55		55
39		43	43
44, 45, 46, 47, 48	316	57	373
49	55		55
51	43		43
55		50	50
58, 61, 62		146	146
63, 64, 65, 66	267		267
67, 68, 69, 70	494		494
71, 72, 75, 76, 77	132	593	725
78, 79, 80	29	221	250
82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87	197	432	629
88, 89	120	72	192
90, 91		45	45
93, 94, 95, 100, 178, 179, 180, 181	59	50	109
102	54		54
107, 108, 173		103	103
109, 110, 175	21	70	91
111, 112, 113		53	53
126		58	58
136		82	82
99,153, 154	104		104
156, 157	85		85
158, 159, 160	66		66
166, 167	51		51
168, 169, 170, 171	48	1	49
144, 183	20	21	41
141	54		54